

CLAIMS

1. An orthodontic bracket comprising:  
a body having a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth, the body defining  
5 an arch wire slot extending mesiodistally across the body and dimensioned to receive an arch wire;  
a shutter coupled to the body and movable relative to the body between an open position, in which placement and removal of an arch wire in the arch wire slot is facilitated, and a closed position, in which placement and removal of an arch wire in the  
10 arch wire slot is inhibited; and  
a spring positioned in the recess and coupled to the body, the spring providing a force to bias the shutter.
2. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body includes a  
15 tie wing and wherein the recess is formed in the tie wing.
3. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 2 wherein the tie wing is an occlusal tie wing.
- 20 4. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 2 wherein the body includes a second tie wing having a second recess and a second spring positioned within the recess, wherein the second spring is coupled to the shutter.
- 25 5. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring biases the shutter toward the closed position.
6. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 5 wherein the body includes a recess adapted to engage and hold the shutter in the open position.
- 30 7. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shutter slides within the passageway.
8. An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spring comprises a coil spring.